## **Claims**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A method for producing a semiconductor chip, comprising: applying a photothermal conversion layer comprising a light-absorbing agent and a heat decomposable resin on a light-transmitting support, provided that upon irradiation of radiation energy, said photothermal conversion layer converts the radiation energy into heat and decomposes due to the heat,

preparing a semiconductor wafer having a circuit face with a circuit pattern and a non-circuit face on the side opposite said circuit face, laminating said semiconductor wafer and said light-transmitting support through a photocurable adhesive by placing said circuit face and said photothermal conversion layer to face each other, and irradiating light from said light-transmitting support side to cure the photocurable adhesive layer, thereby forming a laminated body having a non-circuit face on the outside surface,

grinding the non-circuit face of said semiconductor wafer until said semiconductor wafer reaches a desired thickness,

dicing the ground semiconductor wafer from the non-circuit face side to cut it into a plurality of semiconductor chips,

irradiating radiation energy from said light-transmitting support side to decompose said photothermal conversion layer, thereby causing separation into semiconductor chips having said adhesive layer and a light-transmitting support, and optionally removing said adhesive layer from said semiconductor chips.

- 2. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip of claim 1, wherein a die bonding tape is affixed to the semiconductor wafer before dicing the ground semiconductor wafer.
- 3. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip of claim 1, wherein said photothermal conversion layer contains carbon black, and/or a transparent filler.

4. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip of claim 2, wherein said photothermal conversion layer contains carbon black, and/or a transparent filler.

- 5. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip of claim 1, wherein laminating said semiconductor wafer and said light-transmitting support through a photocurable adhesive is performed in a vacuum.
- 6. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip of claim 1, wherein said semiconductor wafer is ground to a thickness of 50 μm or less.
- 7. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip of claim 1, wherein said photocurable adhesive layer has a storage modulus of  $5 \times 10^8$  Pa or more after curing.
- 8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein dicing is performed while recognizing scribe lines, and with alignment via light capable of passing through a) the light-transmitting support and photothermal conversion layer from said light-transmitting support side or b) the semiconductor wafer from the non-circuit side.
- 9. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip claim 3, wherein laminating said semiconductor wafer and said light-transmitting support through a photocurable adhesive is performed in a vacuum.
- 10. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip claim 4, wherein laminating said semiconductor wafer and said light-transmitting support through a photocurable adhesive is performed in a vacuum.
- 11. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip of claim 3, wherein said semiconductor wafer is ground to a thickness of 50 µm or less.

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12. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip of claim 4, wherein said semiconductor wafer is ground to a thickness of 50 µm or less.

- 13. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip of claim 3, wherein said photocurable adhesive layer has a storage modulus of  $5 \times 10^8$  Pa or more after curing.
- 14. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip of claim 4, wherein said photocurable adhesive layer has a storage modulus of  $5 \times 10^8$  Pa or more after curing.
- 15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein dicing is performed while recognizing scribe lines, and with alignment via light capable of passing through a) the light-transmitting support and photothermal conversion layer from said light-transmitting support side or b) the semiconductor wafer from the non-circuit side.
- 16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein dicing is performed while recognizing scribe lines, and with alignment via light capable of passing through a) the light-transmitting support and photothermal conversion layer from said light-transmitting support side or b) the semiconductor wafer from the non-circuit side.
- 17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein dicing is performed while recognizing scribe lines, and with alignment via light capable of passing through a) the light-transmitting support and photothermal conversion layer from said light-transmitting support side or b) the semiconductor wafer from the non-circuit side.
- 18. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip of claim 1, wherein a die bonding tape is affixed to the semiconductor wafer before dicing the

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ground semiconductor wafer, wherein said semiconductor wafer is ground to a thickness of 50 µm or less.

- 19. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip of claim 1, wherein a die bonding tape is affixed to the semiconductor wafer before dicing the ground semiconductor wafer, wherein said semiconductor wafer is ground to a thickness of 50  $\mu$ m or less, and wherein said photocurable adhesive layer has a storage modulus of 5  $\times$  10 $^8$  Pa or more after curing.
- 20. (Previously presented) The method for producing a semiconductor chip of claim 1, wherein a die bonding tape is affixed to the semiconductor wafer before dicing the ground semiconductor wafer, wherein said semiconductor wafer is ground to a thickness of 50 µm or less, and wherein dicing is performed while recognizing scribe lines along with alignment via light capable of passing through a) the light-transmitting support and photothermal conversion layer from said light-transmitting support side or b) the semiconductor wafer from the non-circuit side.